

Caregiver's Quarterly

BAY RESPITE CARE

- **Free Workshop on Special Education Rights!**
Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 10a-12p at the Vallejo Community Center at 225 Amador Street. This is presented by the Area 4 Board, Matrix, and Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy. Come learn about the Individual Education Plans (IEP), the IEP Process and Timeline, and your rights in the IEP process. RSVP to the Area Board at 648-4073 or email AB4@scdd.ca.gov.
- **Respite From The Heart- Save the date!**
Saturday, July 24, 2010 is the next Respite From The Heart! It's our annual softball game, BBQ, and awards ceremony for our RCP's. It will be held at Community Park 1 in American Canyon. As it is a potluck, we ask all who are attending to bring a side dish or dessert to share. BRC provides the meat and drinks. Come join the fun! Look for more details, including directions, on our website at www.bayrespitecare.org.

New Policy for Cancelling a Respite Booking

When you first started your services with BRC, a Program Coordinator came to your house for your introductory Home Visit.



During this Home Visit, our policy for cancelling a booking was explained. If you needed to cancel a scheduled booking, you were required to call your RCP before they left their house. If you called them while they were en route or once they arrived at your home, you would be charged 3 hours (the hours would be deducted from your authorized hours) and the RCP would be paid 3 hours.

Because so many of our workers live all around the Bay Area, this policy could get tricky if you don't know where your RCPs live or how long it takes for them to drive to your house. In order to solve this problem, we have changed our policy. The new policy is as follows...

You must call your RCP to cancel a scheduled booking no later than 2 hours before said

booking is supposed to start. For example, your RCP is arriving at 4pm today. You need to call him before 2pm in order to avoid being charged 3 hours. If your RCP is arriving at noon, you need to call her before 10a.

But what if your RCP is not answering their phone? You need to

- 1) leave a message on your RCP's phone
- 2) call the office at 707-644-4491 and speak with a Program Coordinator. If it is after office hours or on the weekend, call the office, press 0 and leave a message. Make sure you include your name, your RCP's name, the time you called and the time the booking is supposed to start.

On a final note, we understand if something happens and you need to cancel a booking, but please do not make it a habit. Conversely, if your RCP frequently cancels, please let us know!

Camping Unlimited

Camping Unlimited, a non-profit organization since 1957, offers year-round programs and residential summer camp programs for children and adults who have developmental disabilities.



Their summer residential camp, called Camp Krem, is a traditional camp program that offers daily swimming, arts, crafts, nature programs, dancing, music, sports and games.

It is located in Boulder Creek, 60 miles south of SF. For summer 2010, they are offering a variety of 6, 10 and 12 days sessions. There is a 1:2 ratio of counselors to campers. Financial Aid is currently available.

Camping Unlimited also offers year-round weekend programs, which offer a wide range of activities from 1-day programs to overnight trips and travel camps. Their private bus and van will pick up participants in Emeryville (next to Berkeley).

All children will be supervised by experienced staff and dedicated volunteers at a 1:3 staff ratio. For certain kids, they offer 1:1 supervision. Examples of trips include: Oakland A's game, movie & pizza day, Chinese New Year's Celebration, Muir Woods, and the SF Exploratorium.

For more information, call 510-222-6662 or visit their website at www.campingunlimited.com

Remember— BRC does NOT pay your RCP mileage for any driving done DURING a booking. We only reimburse the RCP for driving to and from your home.

If you ask a RCP to drive during a booking, you are responsible for paying the RCP's mileage. Please call the office to find out what the current reimbursement rate for your area is.



New Rates for Siblings!

BRC has revised its sibling policy to better serve our families and RCPs. Effective immediately, we now have a sliding scale that we recommend families follow when paying their RCP for watching their non-disabled children. The scale is based on the non-disabled child's age. We created this scale on the assumption that your children will require less attention from the RCP as they get older.

- 0-3 years old : \$2.50/hr
- 4-10 years old: \$2.00/hr
- 11-12 years old: \$1.50/hr

As always, if you have a private pay agreement with your RCP, s/he will provide the same care to your non-disabled children (ages 0-12) as s/he will to our client. For children 13-15 years old, the RCP will only provide meals. If your child is 16 or over, the RCP provides no care.

If you have any questions, please call the office and speak with a Program Coordinator.

Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy

What is the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA)? It's a statewide office run by Disability Rights California, formerly Protection & Advocacy, Inc. OCRA employs a Clients' Rights Advocate (CRA) at each Regional Center. This person is trained to help protect the rights of people with developmental disabilities.

Any person with a disability, family member, or interested party may ask a

CRA about the rights of a person with a developmental disability. The CRA will answer your question or refer you to another resource.

What service issues/agencies can your CRA help you with? Here are a few: Schools, Social Security, Medi-Cal, Neglect, Rehabilitation Mental Health, Discrimination, Regional Centers, In-Home Services, Private Insurance, Guardianship, Abuse, Day Care, Criminal Matters,



Self-Service RCPs

Bay Respite Care has two different respite programs. If you receive this newsletter, you are part of the Full-Service program. That means you can use our Full-Service General Workers (the folks we recruit, hire, train and match you with) or Full-Service Private Workers (folks you already know that we hire to work just with your child).

Our other program, Self-Service respite, uses workers similar to your Private Workers. However, they are *not* part of the Full-Service program.

What does this mean to you? If you meet someone who says they work for Bay Respite Care, do not automatically assume they can work for your family. You need to call the office to make sure they are already part of the Full-Service program.

If they are not, we have a process for hiring them under the Full-Service program so they may work for you. However, do NOT schedule any bookings with them until you have received the green light from a Program Coordinator! Questions? Please call us!

BAY RESPITE CARE

3272 SONOMA BLVD., SUITE 4
VALLEJO, CA 94590

PH: 707/644-4491

FAX: 707-644-1318

WWW.BAYRESPITECARE.ORG

WE'RE OPEN M-F, 8:30A-5:00P

Personal Autonomy, Conservatorship, as well as other items.

For more information, you can go to the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy website at

www.disabilityrightsca.org or you can call them at 1-800-390-7032. They are here to help you and your loved one!